

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 6, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire August 6, 2004. In the present Amendment, the specification and FIG. 3 have been amended while the original set of claims 1-19 have not been amended and remain pending in their original form.

Amendment To The Specification:

The paragraph under the title "Cross Reference to Related Applications," beginning on page 1, line 8, has been amended to include the application serial number for the cited co-pending related U.S. application.

Amendment to the Drawings:

FIG. 3 has been amended herein (a copy attached herewith) to correct an error in the originally filed version of **FIG. 3**. Specifically, the "monitor driver" **35** was originally depicted as within a box labeled "Host OS" and is now depicted outside that box to clarify that the monitor driver **35** is not part of the host operating system. Instead as explained on page 12, lines 8-11, monitor driver **35** provides the instructions enabling traffic monitor module processor **38** (shown in **FIG. 2** as distinct from the host system) to scan and detect keyboard packet traffic. The original depiction of monitor driver **35** within a box labeled Host OS is in clear contravention of the specification such as explained on page 10, line 31 through page 11, line 4, explaining that the processor **38** (**FIG. 2**) operates independently of the host operating system. Applicants submit the foregoing amendment is a correction of an obvious oversight and that no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-5, 10-13 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,067,589 issued to Mamata (hereinafter *Mamata*), in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,888, issued to Angelo et al. (hereinafter *Angelo*). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Mamata discloses a USB legacy support system that enables an otherwise non-USB designed system (i.e. having no dedicated USB driver program) to functionally incorporate a

USB device. Regarding the first element of independent claims 1 and 10, Applicants concede that “receiving a packet on a bus ... between said keyboard and said host computer” (i.e. bus monitoring) is well known in the art. However, *Mamata* does not disclose any means or method of “securing access to a keyboard driver” as explicitly recited in independent claims 1, 10, and 18.

The *Angelo* reference also does not relate to securing access to a keyboard driver and does not disclose “setting an input secure bit only in response to determining that said packet originated from said keyboard, wherein said set input bit is subsequently utilized to access said keyboard driver from said host processor.” The only mention of a keyboard driver in the entire description and figures of *Angelo* occurs at col. 6, lines 52-54 in discussing the types of programs that may contain Trojan horse viruses explaining that, “(e)xamples of these types of programs include screen savers or keyboard drivers.” The process described at col. 7, lines 14-67 relates to protecting (i.e. securing) the entry of keyboard characters using an SMI handler routine in which a security bit is set while the processor is in system management mode (SMM). As explained at col. 7, lines 48-50, the secure keyword bit functions to activate circuitry for intercepting the keyboard interrupt IRQ1. This is entirely different than the setting of an “input secure bit” that is set “only in response to determining that said packet originated from said keyboard” and “is subsequently utilized to access said keyboard driver from said host processor.”

Neither *Mamata* nor *Angelo*, either individually or in combination disclose any method or system that securing access to a keyboard driver. Furthermore, neither of these references or any other prior art known to Applicants employs a technique comprising a bus/packet monitoring to identify a keyboard-originated packet and in response thereto, setting a security bit that is utilized to access the keyboard driver from the host processor. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art and a notice to this effect is requested.

No extension of time is believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to **IBM Corporation Deposit Account Number 50-0563.**

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney of record at (512) 343-6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Baca', written over a horizontal line.

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